

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2834

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR ALSTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FRASER, J. MALCOLM)
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: CANBERRA 2698

1. AT MALCOLM FRASER'S INSTANCE, I HAD A 20-MINUTE CONVERSA-
TION WITH HIM THE MORNING OF APRIL 14. THERE WERE TWO
SUBJECTS, BOTH RELATED, ON HIS MIND: WHAT HE REGARDS AS A
DEPLORABLE WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC CONDITION WHICH HE FEELS IS
DETERIORATING RAPIDLY, AND HIS DESIRE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT
FOR AN HOUR. THE PM WILL BE IN NEW YORK IN MAY. I SAW HIM
LATER THAT EVENING IN SYDNEY AND HE SUGGESTED ANY ONE OF THREE
DATES: MONDAY, MAY 22, OR THE 23RD OR THE MORNING OF MAY 24.
IF THE MEETING CANNOT BE ARRANGED FOR ONE OF THOSE DAYS,
THEN ANY DAY AFTER MAY 29, WHEN HE WILL HAVE RETURNED FROM A
MEETING IN JAMAICA WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, WOULD SUIT.
HE PREFERS TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER PRIOR TO SEEING PM MANLEY,
ET AL. I RECOGNIZE "AFTER THE 29TH" IS INDEFINITE
BUT HE DID NOT SAY JUST HOW LONG HE WOULD BE IN THE U.S.
ON HIS SECOND VISIT.

2. I REGARD THIS REQUEST AS MOST IMPORTANT. I AM
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PERSUADED THAT MR. FRASER HAS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS SAY-
ING TO THE PRESIDENT, AND I AM ANXIOUS TO HELP HIM FIND
A WAY TO SAY IT. TO THIS END, I WOULD HAVE NO HESITANCY
IN CALLING THE PRESIDENT, BUT PREFER ASKING YOU TO
ARRANGE THE MEETING UNLESS I AM OTHERWISE ADVISED. I
SUGGEST A POSSIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE A CALL FROM YOU TO
HAMILTON JORDAN, EXPRESSING MY CONVICTION THAT AN HOUR

OF THE PRESIDENT'S TIME WOULD BE WELL SPENT IN HEARING MALCOLM FRASER WHO JUST MAY POSSIBLY COME UP WITH A NEW INITIATIVE FOR IMPROVING CONDITIONS. HE WOULD COME TO THE TABLE SHORTLY AFTER HAVING DISCUSSED WORLD ECONOMICS WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, AND HIS EVALUATION OF THE JAPANESE OUTLOOK WOULD BE USEFUL TO US.

3. I EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT VERY QUICKLY THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE CAN BE ARRANGED FOR AN HOUR'S VISIT FROM THE PM. NO FORMALITIES WOULD BE EXPECTED. PERHAPS WE MIGHT SEND A PLANE TO PICK HIM UP IN NEW YORK, RETURNING HIM THE SAME DAY. HE DID NOT SAY WHO MIGHT ACCOMPANY HIM, BUT I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE CAME UNATTENDED. IN ANY EVENT, HE WOULD NOT HAVE MORE THAN TWO AIDES. I WOULD REGARD IT AS WHOLLY UNNECESSARY FOR ME TO BE PRESENT, BUT IF THE MEETING COMES OFF AND THE PRIME MINISTER IS ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ASK YOU OR YOUR DESIGNEE TO JOIN THE SESSION.

4. IF YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH ME THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, PLEASE PROCEED. SHOULD YOU CONCLUDE THAT A CALL FROM ME TO THE WHITE HOUSE IS THE WAY BEST CALCULATED TO BRING SUCH A MEETING ABOUT, PLEASE LET ME HEAR FROM YOU. IN THE CONNECTION, I POINT OUT THAT THERE IS NO SECURE TELEPHONE LINE FROM THE EMBASSY TO THE WHITE HOUSE.
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